SENATE ACTION FORM

No. 1253

Subject: _____S/U Grading Option_____

Reference to Senate Minutes dated: _____January 30, 2023_____

Senate Action:
MOTION: APC– It is moved to approve S/U Grading Option as presented.
VOTE: Approved by majority vote.

Response requested:

___X__ **Approval for placement in University Catalog, Undergraduate, as a new section: Grading**

Information

_____ Approval for placement in University Regulations

_____ Recommendation to Board for placement in Board Policy Manual

_____ None (sent as information item)

_____ Other action requested/comments:

Dawit Senbet
_____   _____10/31/2023_____
Faculty Senate Chair   Date

*   *

Administrative review of Senate action (unnecessary for information items):

___X__ Reviewed by **VPAA/Provost**. Check ___-_____ if comments attached

___X__ Reviewed by **General Counsel**. Check _____ if comments attached

Presidential action:

_x__ Approve _____ Reject ____ Return to Senate for discussion/modification (comments attached)

_____   11/08/2023
President/Designated Administrative Officer   Date

Date of Board approval (if applicable): _____*not applicable*_____

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED ORIGINAL AND ATTACHMENT TO THE FACULTY SENATE OFFICE, CARTER HALL 2004, BOX 75. Faculty.Senate@unco.edu

FACULTY SENATE MOTION
Subject: S/U Grading Option
Originator/Date: UGC 11/08/2022; Revised by APC 12/05/2022
Placement(s): Undergraduate Catalog, as a new section in Grading Information
Approved by APC on 12/05/2022 and sent to Codification
Suggestions from Codification on 1/11/2023 sent to APC
Revisions approved by APC on 1/17/2023 and sent to Senate 01/30/2023

Motion: Adopt a permanent S/U grading option as outlined in the catalog language below.

Purpose/Rationale: Offering a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) option for students as an alternative grading scheme would encourage students to explore courses outside of their major without fear of negatively impacting their GPAs. This is an option that the majority of universities in Colorado offer.
Current Practice: Courses at UNC are offered with either a traditional grading scheme or S/U grading scheme, which applies to all students in the course. During the initial semesters of the COVID19 pandemic, UNC gave all students the option to have any courses they took recorded with grades of S/U (which they could do after seeing the letter grade, they would have otherwise received).

Proposed Language:

S/U Grading Option

The Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grading option enables undergraduate students to take a limited number of courses, as specified below, offered under the traditional letter-grade policy on a S/U basis. Courses selected for this option must be outside of the student's current major(s), minor(s), and/or certificate program(s).
When a student selects an eligible course to be S/U graded, the instructor will assign a traditional letter grade. That grade will be converted to S, S-, or U by the Office of the Registrar. Only the S, S-, or U will be reported on the student's transcript, and the course grade will not be calculated in the student's GPA. The letter-grade will be converted to S/S-/U as follows:

- S will be applied when the instructor assigns a grade of C- or higher.
- S- will be applied when the instructor assigns a grade of D-, D, or D+.
- U will be applied when the instructor assigns a grade of F.

S meets all grade-based prerequisite requirements. S- does not meet prerequisite requirements for courses that must be completed with a grade of C- or higher. U does not count as credit toward graduation.
If a student changes or adds a major, minor, or certificate program that requires a course they had previously selected as S/U, an S satisfies any minimum grade requirement. An S- satisfies grade requirements of D-, D, or D. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the Office of Financial Aid and their academic advisor prior to selecting the S/U grading option to understand how the choice may impact them.

Courses Eligible for S/U Grading

Only those courses outside of a student's current major(s), minor(s), and certificate program(s) are eligible for the S/U grading option. A maximum of two (2) courses per semester and total of fifteen (15) earned credits across semesters may have the S/U grading option applied.

Courses currently being taken for grade replacement are not eligible for the S/U grading option.

The S/U grading option will not be applied retroactively for completed courses.

Process

Students seeking the S/U grading option for a course must submit an application prior to the withdrawal deadline for that course. Upon approval by the Office of the Registrar, no further changes to the grading option will be made.

Students currently on Academic Probation must obtain approval from their college academic advisor, academic success coordinator, or faculty advisor before pursuing the S/U grading option.

Students should consider the implications of their decision to seek the S/U grading option:

- S/U grades may impact financial aid, including eligibility for scholarships and federal research grants. Students should contact the Office of Financial Aid for advice.
- S/U grades may impact eligibility for Veteran's educational benefits (such as the "GI Bill"). Students should contact Veterans Services for advice.
- S/U grades may impact Visa requirements for international students. Students should contact International Student and Scholar Services for advice.
- S/U grades may impact financial and other eligibility for student-athletes. These students should contact the Student-Athlete Academic Success Center and the Office of Financial Aid for advice.
- S/U grades may have an impact on eligibility for graduate school or professional school programs. Students should contact their college academic advisors, academic success coordinators, or faculty advisors for advice.

Additional Catalog Changes:

In the Grade Point Average section:

> To compute a grade point average, first remove all basic skills courses (courses numbered 001-099) and all courses that carry the grades: S, S-, U, W, UW, I, NC, and grades with a period or asterisk(s). Multiply the credit hours for each remaining course by the grade point value of the grade. Total credit hours and grade points. Divide the grade points by the credit hours. Grade point averages are calculated to 3 decimal points and displayed as two decimal points rounded on academic transcripts and degree evaluations.